Letters to the editor
The Nation
72 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N.Y. 10011

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701
11/7/91

In your persisting Israel bashing you have abandoned honesty and common sense.

Christopher Hitchens writes that a Golan Heights "spokesman" gave him "several persuasive (sic) reasons to think that this bizarre sub-occupation might be entering its last days. In the age of high-performance aircraft and missiles, he said the strategic value of a piece of high ground is increasingly negligible."

This arrant nonsense is Syrian propaganda, not relevant fact. It is made possible by omitting any reason for Israel's capturing those heights at such great cost. Syrian artillery there was desolating nearby Israeli settlements. It was so terrible, so deadly, that even kindergarten kids had to learn where the bomb shelters were and to get there promptly. Along with their grandparents, parents, and those not working in the fields.

This unquestioned Syrian propaganda continues, "most of the Israel settlements are in the south of the Golan region and therefore are barely connected with the 'Heights' at all," inferring that keeping Syrian artillery and terrorist infiltraters away serves no real purpose, which is obviously false. It has given Israeli Israelis immunity from Syrian bombardment and were there another war, for all the missiles and planes it would still protect them from artillery fire.

Hitchens makes one mention of the original Palestine territory that, consistent with The Nations's bias, is incomplete and irrelevant: "It (the heights) was not part of the Palestine Mandate." Whether or not it was is not relevant but who lived their before these Syrians is and is omitted. What <u>was</u> part of the Palestine Mandate, as The Nation never informs its readers, was more than three-quarters of it, is Jordan, most of whose people are Palestinians. Or, there is a Palestinian State, set up by Britain after World War I. Israel did not fight to hold the heights because it was part of that mandate but to protect its people from Syrian slaughter and infiltrating terrorists.

How secure would New Yorkers feel with armed and dedicated enemies as little as nine miles away and well armed and disposed to use those arms? This is the actuality for much of Israel. Harold Weisberg.

Harold Weisberg